

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Gordon Harris on June 04, 2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 14 is canceled.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended) The online drill down interactive tool of claim –14-- 12, wherein selecting a highlighted icon leads to the task window if the icon represents at least one of said sub-tasks and leads to a second plurality of selectable icons if the icon represents the at least one department.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended) An online drill down interactive tool implemented by a computer program executed by one or more processors for defining steps necessary to complete an objective comprising:

 a map window having a plurality of major tasks organized on a timeline that define how to accomplish the objective, each major task identifying specific jobs that have at least one sub-task necessary to complete one of the plurality of major tasks;

a task window for each job identified by the map window, the task window including at least one of said sub-tasks organized on the timeline that is needed to complete said one of the plurality of major tasks;

--and-- wherein the task windows are accessible by selecting one of the plurality of major tasks from the map window, wherein each of the plurality of major tasks includes a plurality of icons that represent groups within the organization, wherein members of said plurality of icons are highlighted when respective groups have incomplete tasks;

and wherein for each of the plurality of major tasks at least one of the plurality of icons are selectable by a user that represents specific individual jobs or departments that have at least one task to perform to complete one of the plurality of major tasks.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1, 3-6, 8-12 and 15-21 are allowed over the prior art of record.
The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: Applicant has claimed uniquely distinct features in the instant invention which are not found in the prior art either singularly or in combination of a second level of visually represented information comprising interrelationships between work positions, wherein each of said work positions are, represented by at least one icon that corresponds to one or more workers within one of a plurality of groups within an organization that work on one or more of said steps; a third level of visually represented information comprising tasks each work position must accomplish for said one or more of said steps; wherein the first, second, and third levels are organized such that the second

level is accessible from the first level and the third level is accessible from the second level. These features are not found or suggested in the prior art.

The closest prior art Tuli and Ramachandran discloses a conventional spreadsheet window and a bar chart window used by management to keep track of worker's assignments; either singularly or in combination fail to anticipate or render the above underline limitations obvious.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cao (Kevin) Nguyen whose telephone number is (571)272-4053. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30AM-5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dennis Chow can be reached on (571)272-7767. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Cao (Kevin) Nguyen/

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